

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for limiting outward movement of a slide-out shelf, said structure comprising:

a plurality of side supports configured to support the shelf;

a plurality of support members configured to rigidly connect said side supports and contact at least a portion of the shelf thereby blocking forward movement of the shelf.

2. A system in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising:

a plurality of gussets extending inwardly from each of said side supports; and

a gusset tab extending from each of said gussets and configured to contact a portion of the shelf thereby blocking further forward movement of the shelf.

3. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said portion of the shelf comprises at least one of a forward stop tab and a rear tab, said tabs are at least one of integral and unitary.

4. A system in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said rear tabs extend longitudinally.

5. A system in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said forward stop tabs extend laterally outward from said shelf.

6. A system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said gussets and said gusset tabs are integral, said gussets extend laterally inward from said side supports and said gusset tabs extend upwardly from said gussets.

7. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said side supports each comprise a ledge comprising a clearance portion having a width providing a clearance for said forward tab.

8. A system in accordance with Claim 7 wherein said side support ledges each further comprise a rear portion and a forward portion, said rear portion having a width greater than a width of said forward portion, said forward portion providing a clearance for said rear tab.

9. A method for assembling a shelf assembly, said method comprises:

providing a shelf including at least one forward tab and at least one rear tab extending outwardly from said shelf;

providing at least one side support configured to support said shelf, including at least one side support clearance sized to receive said forward tab, at least one gusset extending inwardly from each said side supports, and at least one support member configured to rigidly connect said side supports; and

slidably coupling the shelf to the side supports.

10. A method in accordance with claim 9 wherein slidably coupling the shelf to the side supports further comprises coupling the shelf to the side supports such that the shelf extends outward in a first direction and retracts inward in a second direction opposite the first direction.

11. A method in accordance with claim 10 wherein slidably coupling the shelf to the side supports further comprises extending the shelf outward till the forward tabs contact the gussets and at least one support member such that additional outward linear movement is prevented.

12. A slide-out shelf assembly comprising:

a shelf comprising a first side, a forward tab laterally extending a first distance from said first side, and a rear tab laterally extending a second distance from said first side, said second distance less than said first distance; and

a first shelf side support comprising a laterally projecting ledge for sliding engagement with said shelf first side, said projecting ledge comprising:

a rear portion having a first width sufficient to retain said rear tab; and

a forward portion having a second width less than said first width and providing a clearance for said rear tab and further providing a clearance for said forward tab, said clearance having third width providing a clearance for said forward tab.

13. A shelf assembly in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said second width is sized to retain said forward tab when said forward tab is positioned in said forward portion.

14. A shelf assembly in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said forward and rear tab extend laterally outward from said shelf first side, said first side support ledge extends laterally inward over said forward and rear tab when said shelf is in a retracted position.

15. A shelf assembly in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said shelf forward tab is configured to be forward of said ledge rear portion and under said ledge forward portion when said shelf is in a fully extended position.

16. A shelf assembly in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said rear tab is configured to be under said ledge rear portion when said shelf is in said fully extended position.

17. A shelf assembly in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said shelf forward tab is configured to be forward of said ledge rear portion and under said ledge forward clearance portion when said shelf is in a release position.

18. A shelf assembly in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said rear tab is configured to be forward said ledge rear portion when said shelf is in said release position.

19. A shelf assembly in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said side support further comprises a plurality of support members rigidly connecting said side

supports and configured to contact said forward tab when said shelf is in said first extended position.

20. A shelf assembly in accordance with Claim 19, wherein said support member is configured to prevent said forward tab from moving forwardly from said first extended position until a forward edge of said shelf is raised.

21. A shelf assembly in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said shelf comprises a refrigerator shelf.

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